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DATE 2008

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HEADQUARTERS 12th AI GROUP
SCI DETACHMENT
APO 655 USA

18 June 1945

SUBJECT: Hildegard BEETZ, nee BURKHARDT, SD Executive and Agent
TO : Chief, CIB, G-2, 12th Army Group

Following is a report from Lt. Stewart FRENCH, SCI Detachment, Munich:

1. (Dr. Wilhelm HOETL, ^{cit. Germany} Chief of Amt VI-E for Southeastern Europe) and principal figure in the MOUNT case, now in Third Army Interrogation Center, volunteered information that an important woman executive and agent of the AMT was, to the best of his knowledge, living in WEIMAR. She was Frau Hildegard BEETZ, nee BURKHARDT, cover name "FELICITAS". Dr. HOETL stated he believed she had in her possession important Italo-German official records, including the personal diaries of the late Count CIANO during his years as Foreign Minister of ITALY.

2. Frau BEETZ was interrogated by representatives of the MUNICH and WEIMAR SCI Detachments at her parents' home, Belvedere Allee 14, WEIMAR, on 14 June and the following information obtained.

3. She unquestionably has detailed knowledge of the personalities and events of AMT VI, ITALY, from 1940 to 1944. From January 1943 to August of that year she was in fact executive head of the AMT in ROME, reporting directly to Herbert KAPPLER, ^{cit. Germany} Nazi Police Attache in ROME who, in turn, reported directly to the chiefs of the AMTS in BERLIN. She also worked in the SD offices in WEIMAR and BERLIN, where she was head and at times the only translator of agent reports and other Italian documents.

4. In September, 1943, Dr. HOETL sent Frau BEETZ as an agent of AMT VI to obtain information from CIANO, then imprisoned at ALLMANNSHAUSEN on the Stamberger See, near MUNICH. Her cover job was that of CIANO's secretary and translator. Primary SD mission was to learn the whereabouts of the diary in which CIANO had recorded all the secret meetings, negotiations, and agreements which took place during his years as Foreign Minister.

5. She states that she was won over by CIANO, and, in a sense, double-crossed the SD. She denies ever having been CIANO's mistress, but sent reports to HOETL along the lines that CIANO himself suggested, and worked continuously for his release. She states the SD objected to CIANO's surrender to the BAGDOLIO Government in ITALY, but that (HIMMLER'S deputy, HOCHSTETTER, SS und Polizeifuehrer) WOLF, SS head for all ITALY, and RAHM, German Ambassador, demanded it.

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6. On 18 October, CIANO was transferred to a prison in VERONA, ITALY, and on 3 November Frau BEETZ was sent there to him from BERLIN by Dr. HOETL, who had fought against giving CIANO up to the Italians. In VERONA, she saw CIANO every day in his cell, and reported to HOETL through SS General HARSTER, head of the SIPO and SD for ITALY. Through her efforts, KALTENBRUNNER and HOETL came to INNSBRUCK in January 1944 to negotiate for CIANO's papers. KALTENBRUNNER gave her a letter to CIANO written in his own longhand promising to have CIANO freed if he surrendered all documents of interest to Germany. CIANO agreed.

7. Frau BEETZ went by guarded automobile to ROME, where she obtained seven volumes of secret Foreign Office documents from a hiding place in a private address that CIANO had given her. She turned these papers over to HARSTER, who himself flew them to BERLIN. At the time he confided to her that HITLER personally had refused to permit the release of CIANO, but that the SD was going to obtain all the documents anyway.

8. She wrote a letter of protest at the double cross to KALTENBRUNNER, but his only reply was a large bouquet of roses, thanking her for having done a good job. Meanwhile a plan for CIANO to escape failed when a guard was transferred the day before. (EDDA also had succeeded in smuggling some poison to CIANO. He took this the night before his execution, but it failed to work).

9. EDDA, in further fulfillment of the bargain, arrived at a rendezvous with Frau BEETZ, with the seven volumes of the diary concealed around her waist, and was prepared to turn them over. Frau BEETZ warned EDDA of the double cross, and EDDA, with her devoted friend, (Lt) Emilio PUCCI, Florentine aristocrat and aviator, started for SWITZERLAND. *at Italy* The SD captured PUCCI, tortured him, but finally permitted him to keep what he asserted was a rendezvous with EDDA at the border. Through Frau BEETZ' good graces, PUCCI got into Switzerland, but had to have medical treatment for the wounds inflicted by the SD. His identity as an Italian airman was revealed, and he was interned.

10. KALTENBRUNNER feared EDDA would talk or publish the diaries. Therefore, Frau BEETZ was sent in January 1944 to SWITZERLAND to try to get the remaining papers, including the diaries, and to persuade EDDA to keep silence. EDDA had been placed by the Swiss in INGENBOHL Convent, near LUCERNE, and was permitted to see no one, however, and there was no assurance that messages reached her.

11. As a result of her good work in the CIANO case as a whole, Frau BEETZ was given six weeks' leave, which she spent with her husband, who had also obtained leave, at COMO and in WEIMAR. She was then sent back to COMO by HOETL to await a Swiss visa to try again to contact EDDA and obtain the documents. While waiting for the visa which never arrived, she stayed at the house of one KARNATZ, a German banker, whose home had been taken over by the SD.

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and made into an agents' headquarters. In charge was VOETTEL, of the SD GRENZPOLIZEI, who ran a number of SD agents from the house.

12. Father PANCINO, Roman Catholic priest who was friend and confessor of EDDA and also an SD agent under Gen. HARSTER, returned from SWITZERLAND at this time and reported that EDDA had told him of the HITLER-MUSSOLINI correspondence, reports of their meetings, and other documents bearing on ITALO-GERMAN relations. PANCINO stated that EDDA had told him there were six or seven copies of these papers in existence. Frau BEETZ herself knew of three copies - one in COMO, one near COMO, and another at the house of a Partisan sympathizer in RAMIOLA.

13. Hoping to forestall discovery of the Partisan's activities, Frau BEETZ states she took a not too bright member of the SD and went alone to the house, and obtained the documents. She took them back by train to the AMT VI office in BERLIN. HOETL had, by this time, gone to HUNGARY, and his deputy couldn't read any Italian. Frau BEETZ was given the job of translating the entire set from Italian into German. On the pretext of wanting to be with her mother, who she said was ill, she obtained permission to do this work at her home in WEIMAR. There she made an original and one copy for the RSHA, and one copy for herself.

14. At the time of the German collapse this spring, she buried this copy, together with certain personal papers, notes, drafts of her reports to HOETL, etc. in a tin box beneath an apple tree in the strawberry patch of her garden. There the SCI agents dug, and there they found the tin box with the papers, which appear to be fully as important as she described them.

15. CIANO's seven-volume diary was kept in his own longhand, and no copies were ever made, Frau BEETZ insists. She believes they are still in EDDA's possession in SWITZERLAND. They were not found with the correspondence, and further digging by SCI in the vicinity failed to reveal them, or any other material of interest.

16. The State Papers have been delivered personally to Group, after proper clearance with A.C. of S., G-2, Eight Corps. Frau BEETZ' personal notes, letters from FUCCI, fragments written by CIANO and drafts of reports Frau BEETZ made to her superiors, have been kept with the body in WEIMAR in custody of SCI.

17. The volumes of CIANO's Foreign Office records which Frau BEETZ obtained for him from ROME in the execution double cross were translated in BERLIN, with the exception of one volume on ALBANIA which she translated in WEIMAR, and Frau BEETZ states she has no copies. She believes the original Italian and the German translation were left in the office which AMT VI continued to maintain in BERKAER Strasse, SCHMARGENDORF, BERLIN, even after the entire AMT was removed in September 1944 to the newly built center of WALDBURG

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near STORKOW, approximately 40 kilometers southeast of BERLIN. They may still be there, unless bombed.

18. Frau BEETZ, who is an attractive young woman of 25 and gives an appearance of shyness and modesty, speaks excellent English and talks willingly. Personnel record is as follows:

a. Born 16 Sept 1919 at OBERNISSA, near WEIMAR. Attended Dolmetscher School for Translators at Leipzig in 1939, assigned by WEIMAR Arbeitsamt to SD WEIMAR in Oct. 1939. Served as mail clerk there until July when she was sent to BERLIN as an Italian interpreter for AMT VI-E-1.

b. In July 1941, she was sent to ROME as secretary to Guido ZIMMER, Chief of the AMT'S agents. In November 1941, she returned to BERLIN with ZIMMER and resumed her duties as interpreter. ZIMMER was succeeded by BOETTCHER (fau) whose cover job was Italian correspondent for the Munich newspaper NEUSTE NACHRICHTEN.

c. In July 1942, Frau BEETZ returned to ROME as secretary to the new AMT VI representative, Helmut LOOSS. When LOOSS joined the Waffen SS in Russia and was not replaced, Frau BEETZ became, for practical purposes, deputy for AMT VI under police attache KAPPLER.

d. After the BADOGLIO coup in August 1943, all German women employees were evacuated from ROME. Frau BEETZ returned to BERLIN to work under HOEPL, then new chief of AMT VI Italian Referat.

e. From Sept 43 to July 44, she was engaged on the CIANO operation. She insists she double-crossed the SD in an effort to aid CIANO.

f. From July 44 to Jan 45, she worked at her parents' home in WEIMAR, translating the documents taken from the CIANO sources.

19. Frau BEETZ discloses that the following persons of Anglo-American interest were in the employ of the SD in Italy.

a. Charles BEWLEY, one-time Irish Consul in ROME, who made reports on relations between IRELAND and BRITAIN and AMERICA. The SD paid BEWLEY a salary of about 6,000 lire a month. He is about 65 years old, and lived at Hotel Majestic. Frau BEETZ believed he is still in ROME.

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b. ALEXEJEFF, fnu. (Russian) Claimed to have friends in U.S. Naval Attache circles in ROME. He made reports on matters he purportedly heard discussed therein.

c. An Englishman, believed to be a college professor, living in Genoa with his Italian wife. Frau BEETZ once brought him 5,000 dollars in US currency which she states was NOT D counterfeited foreign money.

d. Baron von der SCHULENBERG. Arranged job of Doris KOCH (or MOUNT case) who later became HOETL's secretary, with a prominent Polish family in Rome as a governess. Fraulein KOCH's mission was to penetrate Polish circles and obtain information on Polish refugees in Italy. She was on this mission approximately two to three months.

19. a. Also of interest is Father PANCINO, Roman Catholic priest in the employ of the SD, Italy.

b. After CIANO's execution, MUSSOLINI attempted to re-establish contact with EDNA by sending, privately, Father PANCINO to INGENBOHL, Switzerland, where EDNA had been placed in a convent by Swiss authorities. EDNA's cover name was RODERICK. PANCINO however became an agent for SS General HARSTER, Chief of SIFO and SD for Italy.

c. Frau BEETZ states Father PANCINO made a number of trips between Switzerland and Italy, becoming confessor to EDNA, and reporting to HARSTER.

d. Father PANCINO's description is as follows: Age about 35; perhaps 1.68m tall, and weighs 65 km; medium build; dark hair thinning in front; dark brown eyes; narrow face; wore glasses. Intelligent appearance. Ambitious for preference within Church.

20. Frau BEETZ is an extremely intelligent person with an excellent memory. In view of her intimate personal knowledge of personalities and events of AMT VI, Italy, it is recommended that she be taken to 12th for detailed interrogation. It is also recommended that Lt. FLEX, who is conducting the interrogation of Dr. HOETL at the 3rd Army Interrogation Center, be permitted to question her as a check against statements made by HOETL. These recommendations are concurred in by Captain SCHRIEVER and Mr. de NEUFVILLE, who have participated with Lt. FRENCH on the case.

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